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A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd.
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong 11th July 1888.

The Hongkong Telegraph
Thursday July 26, 1888.

It would be difficult to find a class with more faults than a British Admiral. One Admiral arrives on the station and insists on all the vessels of the squadron being painted yellow, another comes along and changes the colour to grey, while on a third Admiral's arrival the vessels are ordered to be painted white, and now the new Admiral orders them all to be painted another black. Their whimsical fancies are not confined to the colours of their vessels, but extend to such things as the colour of the uniforms of the officers. One Admiral is all for a blue uniform for white kid gloves, another is only for black shoes, while a third is all for blue shoes, and so on. It is certainly more difficult than any other badge to keep properly clean. Yet for an Admiral with Admiral Salomon's reputation for cleanliness to be disgraced by black footling messes, and this in a tropical climate, we don't know whether it is the intention of the Admiralty to relieve the Admirals by checking their shoes in the dye of a hundred hundred and war time, but we are sure it will improve their appearance if this can be done effectively on the sides of our modern fighting vessels. Why a naval committee cannot find and determine the best colour for modern war vessels is certainly an enigma. The constant changes undoubtedly give the outside public the idea of inconsistency on the part of our Admirals which we venture to think it unwise to encourage. A higher authority should interfere to prevent the indulgence of what almost amounts to a ludicrous fad on the part of our principal naval commanders.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.
A MEETING of the Sanitary Board was held this afternoon.
The P. & O. Company's steamer *Vendia*, from Timor, left Singapore for this port to-day at 8 a.m.
Mr. R. Hendricks, Interpreter to the German Legation in Bangkok, died at that city on the 6th inst.
In Japan the rule in Europe is reversed; there, the males preponderate. At the last census there were 18,157,977 males and 18,711,110 females.
HANTAN, who is now in Australia, tells a pretty story of £4,000 having been offered him to sell his last wife with Kemp, in which he was beaten. He virtuously assures us that he refused the bribe.
A REGULAR meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 525, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Wednesday, the 1st proximo, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.
THE Suez Canal Convention, in the form agreed to by the British and French Governments, has been forwarded to the Porte from the French Embassy, with a request that the Ottoman Government should state in what form it desires the Convention to be communicated to the other Powers.
THE *Chinese Times* is informed that the Taku-Tientsin-Kaiping Railway advances fast towards completion. A roomy wharf has been made on the north bank opposite the Custom-house, and no rails and sleepers are being forwarded from the two ends to the unfinished section. It is expected that the line will be ready for through traffic in a few weeks.

The death is recorded of H.E. Phya Praha, Superintendent of the Siamese Navy, at Bangkok on the 12th inst.

Lord Robert Grosvenor, third son of the Duke of Westminster, died recently at Constantinople, of typhoid fever.

MR. ERNST Wiede and Miss Alice Ames, younger daughter of Capt. S. J. Bird Ames, were married at the German Legation Bangkok, (and afterwards at the British Legation) on the morning of the 10th inst. The Rev. Mr. Eaton performing the religious ceremony.

A TREMENDOUS storm recently swept over New York creating much panic. Buffalo Bill's show was wrecked, Tents and building were completely destroyed. The great "Nero" spectacle in Madison-square Gardens was seriously damaged, most of the scenery being torn away. Several small yachts were sunk in New York Harbour.

A SHOCKING accident happened a short time ago at some cutlery works in Sheffield. A young man named Wheatcroft, a grinder, was in the act of putting a hand on a driving drum when he became entangled in the band and was carried round the drum. The machinery, which was going at full speed, was immediately stopped. Wheatcroft, however, was then dead. His head was smashed in, and one of his feet was torn off.

MR. E. H. FRENCH, our new acting British Consul, says the *Bangkok Times*, is a second Daniel come to judgment in impartiality and most righteous awards. He knows no distinction between gentle and simple, and regards all alike. Such a magistrate will have a wholesome effect on the general public in Bangkok, especially on our Indian British subjects on the Windmill road, who have too long been allowed to worry their respectable countrymen by taking crooked up cases into the Consulate.

Truth bears from Berlin that Herr von Puttkamer was really dismissed by the Emperor Friedrich because it was discovered, not only that he had managed to obtain possession of the cipher which the Empress Victoria has lately used when telegraphing to England, but that his private correspondence and the Emperor's always passed through his hands. This Minister has been simply a creature of Prince Bismarck, and no more, than one occasion he made great mischief between the Emperor William and the then Crown Prince and Crown Princess. Herr von Puttkamer, who for forty years has been a "Junker" of the most offensive type, is the author of the detestable saying, "Our age is bitten by the electric rabies." He manages the Reptile Band, through which he has created a most unscrupulous semi-official press.

We learn from the Japan *Daily Mail* that the Annual Graduation ceremony of the Imperial University was held in the Central Hall of the University College at Teramono on Tuesday, the 10th inst., at 8 a.m. The attendance on the platform was less numerous than had been expected. H.E. the Minister of State for Education was absent through the illness of his son, and H.E. Count Yamada was also unfortunately prevented from appearing. This is the tenth graduation ceremony that has taken place in the hall which was constructed with a view to such purposes, and it may be the last, as the University hands over the College buildings to the Nobles' School during the summer vacation. The proceedings commenced with the presentation by the Directors of the Several Colleges, of the Graduation diplomas. One hundred and thirty-two received these qualifications.

THIS afternoon at the Magistracy an inquest was held by the Coroner, Mr. Wodehouse, about the deaths of the three unfortunate persons who lost their lives on the morning of the 23rd inst. by a fire at 138 Second Street. Of the victims to this fire, two were "riches" men, whose bodies were found, some time after the fire had been put out, burnt to cinders within three feet of the floor of the shop, and covered up by the falling fragments of floors and walls. The third was that of a woman living in the same house, who in rushing out through the flames received such serious injuries as to terminate her life at the house of a relative in Gough Street to which she had gone and where she died five hours after the occurrence. After the examination of several witnesses the inquest was adjourned till Saturday next, in order to await the arrival from Macao of the husband of the dead woman, who appears to be the only person who may possibly throw some light on the cause of the fire.

THE biggest passenger steamer afloat, says an exchange, is the *Puritan*, which was launched last month from the Roach Yards, Chester, Pa. and is expected to be ready for service in the spring of 1889. The genius of all nations will contribute to her equipment, for every known device will be employed in her make up to further the conception of an ideal steamer in every detail. Her cost will approximate \$1,500,000. She will be fitted with a compound beam engine of the following dimensions: high pressure cylinder, 75 inches diameter and 9 feet stroke; low pressure cylinder, 110 inches diameter by 14 feet stroke. She will have eight boilers, constructed for a working pressure of 110 pounds per square inch. Estimated horse power, 7,500. Like the machinery, the hull will be of the most approved pattern, being built of iron on the double-hull bracket-plate, longitudinal system, with fifty water-tight compartments. Besides these, six water-tight bulkheads will divide the hold into seven compartments, which will make her practically non-sinkable. The principal dimensions of the vessel are as follows:—

Length of water line 404 feet.
Length over all 420 feet.
Beam 60 feet.
Depth of hold 20 feet.
The *Puritan* will have about 350 staterooms, and the vessel is owned by the Fall River Line.

SPAIN is to be officially represented at the Exhibition in Paris next year.

THE income of Sir Morell Mackenzie in England of late years is said to have been over £15,000 a year.

WE are informed by the agents (Messrs. D. Sassoon, Sons & Co.) that the departure of the steamer *Japan*, from Calcutta, has been postponed for a week, owing to some slight accident.

AN accident, says the *Chinese Times*, has recently occurred at the Kai-ping colliery. A cage was descending from the surface to the pit bottom, but the driver of the winding engine, a Cantonese, from carelessness, mismanaged the engine. The cage was jerked, its occupants scrambled out before it was steadied, and two unfortunate colliers were killed. This is the first accident of the kind that has happened at the colliery. The winding engine has for years been entirely worked by Chinese, who are found quite equal to the foreign winders they replaced.

The gentleman who has just succeeded to the cardinal of Seaford went through some curious vicissitudes a few years ago. I was then in New Zealand, hard pushed to earn a livelihood, and he was acting as a bailiff in the New Zealand town of Oamaru. In 1884, when his father (the uncle of the Earl he succeeded) became Earl of Seaford. The news was brought to the bailiff, who was at that moment "in possession" of a house in his official capacity, that he was now Viscount Reichenbach. A substitute was willing to take his place, but the bailiff-viscount stuck to his post for another two days. Subsequently he stood for parliament out there, but was not elected.

THE *Army and Navy Gazette* publishes in tabular form a list of the war vessels, with their speed, and the number of their guns and crews, which assembled at Barcelona in honour of the opening of the Exhibition by the Queen of Spain. As the comparison is not very flattering to Great Britain, the *Gazette* concludes, we think too rashly, or too superficially for the British Navy has a lot more to do than make demonstrations at Exhibitions,—that "it would, perhaps, have been wiser to have abstained from participating altogether, since we could only exhibit our poverty in those waters where we must be supreme, or withdraw and abandon all we now possess. And is the humiliation our naval officers must have felt to count for nothing? Apart from the fact of the compliment to the Queen's son whose flag flies in those waters, it would have been worth our while to show to every foreigner that we have no difficulty in putting at any time, in any port in the world, two pennants for one which a rival can show." The following is a summary of the statement:—

	No. of Ships.	Total Tonnage.	Aggregate Speed.	Guns.	Men.
Italy	12	62,350	207 1/2	84	5,447
France	12	62,350	207 1/2	84	5,447
Great Britain	11	56,800	156 1/2	111	3,774
Austria	8	34,750	118 1/2	47	2,200
Spain	8	34,750	118 1/2	47	2,200
Germany	1	2,511	14 1/2	15	318
Indonesia	1	2,510	14 1/2	14	265
Russia	1	2,504	17 1/2	14	265
Portugal	1	1,450	11 1/2	3	147
United States	1	1,450	11 1/2	3	147

THIS morning at the Police Court the following cases came before Mr. Sercombe-Smith:—
A Chinese carpenter was charged by Mr. Gorman, Inspector of nuisances, with polluting a stream on the 23rd inst., and being found guilty of the offence was fined \$5.

A rubbish cooler was charged by Mr. Clerihew with throwing rubbish into the harbour on 26th inst., from a rubbish boat lying at Praya West. The rubbish consisted of old bricks, cinders and house refuse. Defendant denied the charge, but on further evidence being forthcoming to support it he was relegated to gaol with a month's hard labour, and was sentenced to be confined for three hours in the stocks, on the scene of the offence during the first day's imprisonment.

Chung Atak, 17, a cook was charged by two school boys named J. Barnes and F. Xavier with assault on 25th inst. The first complainant said he was 14 years of age and an inmate of West Point Reformatory. Yesterday at 1 p.m. he was on his way there when in passing along Caine Road he met defendant who called him a monkey, and struck him. The battle then commenced and continued with varied fortunes for the combatants, ending eventually, in a draw. Defendant, with a malignity worthy of a worse cause, always made a point of hunting the boys of the Reformatory. This story was corroborated by Xavier. Defendant explained that he went up to Caine Road to cool himself yesterday when the two boys seized and handed him over to Father Peter who gave him in charge to the police. He did not know why they did this as he had done nothing to them. His worship bound defendant over in two sureties of \$5 each to be of good behaviour for three months or in default to go to gaol for fourteen days.

A CORRESPONDENT writes from Manila under date the 21st instant to the following effect:—"Last Tuesday night, the 17th instant, the house of a medical student named Laureano Viado was searched by the magistrate of Binondo, D. Martin Piñaga, and his clerk D. Rafael Llanos. They were accompanied by a number of policemen who surrounded the house. The Civil Governor, Sr. Pastor Magan, the Superintendent of the police, two Inspectors and some Sergeants were also present. The result of the search was that in the house were found some books, named "Noi Me Tangere" (written by Mr. Rial) and some books and letters from Europe. The poor student and his landlord were at once handcuffed and sent as prisoners to the Bilibit Gaol, without any trial, as according to the Penal Code of Spain, it is forbidden to read any book written against the ecclesiastical authorities. The young man declared that he bought the books from the owner of a shop called "Great Britain." Two others he got from D. Tomas del Rosario, and others from the Governor of Binondo, D. Timoteo Laus. Mr. Piñaga's shop and house were searched the next day from 11 o'clock a.m. till 2 p.m. About 6 o'clock p.m. of the same day the house of the father of Mr. Ramos at Pantacan was searched. The house of the Governor of Binondo was also searched. No books were found in all of them. The individual who gave information about all this is the brother of a Felar. The searching of the houses at Manila and Cavite is still going on."

WE learn from our Manila exchanges that the Villa Casati Italian Opera Company have concluded their season in the Philippines.

WE (Shanghai *Mercury*) are very sorry to hear that the Rev. Father Dechevrens, the Director of the Zikawei Observatory, has not recovered his health yet; he went on sick leave some time ago.

YESTERDAY morning a gentleman connected with a large Sheffield firm—Mr. R. N. Wright—arrived with his wife from Japan, and put up at the Hongkong Hotel. Mr. Wright was sick with fever, and during the day got worse. Dr. Canille attended him, but he died about two o'clock this morning.

SAYS the *Bangkok Times*:—"The extraordinary rapidity with which the Siamese infantry are being drilled into good soldiers cannot fail to attract notice, and it is an agreeable surprise to our most hardened pessimists to see that so much energy is being shown in this direction. The men are now being initiated into the mysteries of night as well as day tactics, and parties of four or five are to be found at late hours opposite the Palace going through 'Jaip wai' exercise and 'whit'ing' a lot of which is marked down on slates for the approval next morning of the commanding officer. It is evident that a consensus of opinion has been arrived at among the Siamese military authorities that they must have a good army, and all true friends of Siam are rejoiced to see that this fact is at last recognised."

WITH the Hongkong Mexican dollar down to 2/1 1/2, and still a possibility of falling lower, there are very few people in the colony who would not gladly welcome a gold standard for the island, or for the whole of China, if such a thing would suit the interests of this outpost of British trade, and those of China. But whether a gold standard will ever be, or not, be a full accomplishment in Hongkong and the neighbouring parts, there is no doubt that it will not be long before British India secures such a desideratum for herself. Mr. Leslie C. Probyn, who was formerly Accountant-General and Commissioner of Paper Currency in the Madras Presidency, has lately got together a meeting of influential officers and merchants in London, under the auspices of the East Indian Association, to consider this proposal. The President, Sir Edmund Drummond, after showing how the trade between India and the gold-standard countries is injuriously affected by the variations in the relative values of silver and gold, the flow of capital stagnated, and the credit of the Indian Government seriously affected, urged, as the only practical remedy, a resort to a gold standard for India and Burma, on a plan which he elaborately described, and which is given at length in the *Financial News*. The President proposes to have gold bars, each containing 40 lbs. 1 oz. 12 dwts. 20 grs. of gold, eleven-twelfths fine, and corresponding exactly with 1,875 sovereigns, four of which bars should be made a legal tender for two crores, or one lakh. At the conclusion of the President's address Mr. Probyn admitted that the shock to the silver market, at first, would be very great, but he was convinced the price would, in time, adjust itself to the altered circumstances. The meeting, which was held at the Westminster Town Hall, was most powerfully represented by hundreds who are interested in the silver currency of our eastern possessions, and was watched by financial men from the United States, from Germany and from France.

MACAO newspapers have their columns still replete with electrifying dislates. Failing other more interesting topics of discussion, our worthy contemporaries of the neighbouring model settlement are apt to resort to affairs *de l'ana caprina* which are of no possible interest to anybody except to the paltry scribblers who do their pens in vogue in order to revile each other. These canine journalists are now engaged in the laudable occupation of howling over the dead carcass of Senhor Amaral, the defeated candidate; and in murmurings of their noble custom of reviling the beaten and the dead, they tear his splendid record of services to shreds, and ignominiously flung them in the eyes of a morbid public. Senhor Horta, who in the opinion of the *Independente*, all of a sudden became the saviour of Macao. In an editorial headed "New horizons," the semi-official weather-cock says a public poem of congratulation on the success of its favourite candidate, and opens the sluices of rank prophesy, nurturing for degraded Macao a golden era of prosperity during Senhor Horta's Deputyship in Lisbon. "Senhor Horta's programme," says this insipid organ, is in its generality a practical one and adapted to the present requirements of the colony." Has anybody outside Macao ever heard of any programme being practical in its generality? Following this signpost comes a long four-column article headed "Fool," an epithet which fits the editorial, the procuratorial, and the tonorial staff of that paper to a point, and in which the *Correio* is attacked, and Senhor Amaral is buried alive in the mud of abuse and calumny. The *Correio* retorts, by indulging in a thorough lunatic asylum verbiage against its aggressor; Senhor Horta is there reduced to very diminutive proportions, and the public is informed that no greater mistake was ever made by the grave and respectable electors of modern Lilliput than when they cast their votes on behalf of Amaral's competitor. *Ubi veritas* in all this mother-of-dead-dogs squabble? Our firm conviction is that the election of a hundred deputies, were each of them a hundred times superior to the one who degraded him, would never save Macao from the degradation in which that colony lies. Its only source of redemption is to be found within itself, namely, in its inhabitants. As long as the self-satisfied descendants of Vasco da Gama prefer the Buddhist enjoyment of a masterly inactivity to a life of healthy action, toil and energy, their fate is sealed and their colony is doomed to annihilation. That their newspapers are halting this disgraceful consummation, a curious perusal of them will convince any impartial reader.

H.H. the Rajah of Kallantan and 40 followers arrived in Bangkok by the steamer *Suri Pongse* on the 8th inst. His Highness intended to request an audience with His Majesty.

THE crown colonies of Great Britain offer but an indifferent field for the business of inventors, and such a possession as this of Hongkong is perhaps one of the least in which any bold and enterprising innovator could possibly come to the object of finding a market for the fruit of his genius. Labour all over the East is cheap, and adherence to "old custom" is as obstinate, tenacious and unchangeable as were the customs of the ancient Medes; but still there are men who have made an effort to break through the enchanted circle, and a few of them have deservedly succeeded, while on the other hand there are some who have had occasion to bitterly regret their rashness, however good may have been their apparent chances of success. Amongst the small group of men who may be fairly classed as inventors in this colony we have now to record the name of Mr. T. C. Hutchings, foreman carpenter of the Kowloon Dock, who has just perfected the model of a ship's accommodation-ladder which embodies many very desirable features. Hitherto, in nearly all British ships and steamers, there has been a difficulty in having the steps of such ladders on all occasions supported on a perfectly horizontal plane, upon which the feet of nervous people could rest in absolute safety and freedom from slipping. If such conditions existed when the vessel was light and high out of the water, they were lost when she became loaded, when in consequence the ladder had to be pulled up; and in this way not a few accidents have happened generally to ladies and children going on board ships as to for the first time in their lives, as well passengers or casual visitors. In his model Mr. Hutchings has succeeded in making a handy and handsome ladder which, at any angle of its descent, always maintains a perfectly substantial and level step. The whole thing is automatic, the guard rail and the steps adjusting themselves in perfect order as the ladder is pulled up or lowered down. The operating machinery is a light flat bar of iron running from top to bottom of the ladder under the steps, to the centre of each of which it is attached by a hinge. The upper part of the bar is secured to the top platform and the other end is the lower platform. When the ladder is triced up, and canted up flush with the side of the ship, the automatic steps and platforms lie snugly in flat with the ship's side and thus offer little or no obstruction to breaking seas and sprays which so frequently wash the old fashioned ladders away till they are broken to pieces. There have been many attempts to secure advantages in ladders, notably in the new German mail steamers which connect Hongkong with Hamburg; but Mr. Hutchings' plan and method of construction will commend themselves, we believe, for lightness, simplicity and strength, as superior to any which so far have been introduced.

LAST night six or seven hundred soldiers and friends spent "an hour with the Chinese" in the Garrison Theatre. Mr. Stewart Lockhart, assisted by Mr. Quincey, had organised a native exhibition in connection with the weekly entertainments. It was thoroughly enjoyable. On one side of the stage sat a Chinese prize band, who occasionally contributed alleged music. They commenced the entertainment with a composition illustrative of a celebration of longevity by the eight girls. It was Wagnerian in architecture, and diabolical in execution, something like the four and twenty pipers in a small room, all playing different tunes. The audience having survived it, a theatrical representation was given, that is to say, a number of men concealed themselves in gorgeous embroidered dresses, postured about, shrieked monosyllables in falsetto voices, and abetted the musicians generally in their attempt to wreck the premises. An assault at arms followed. The "Chinese Tom Sawyers," as the programme described him, gave an exhibition of boxing first, with four-pound gloves "Chinese boxing" differs from ours in several respects—one man can play at it, for instance. The "Chinese Chicken" bounded about the frail stage most seriously, dealing fearful buffets at invisible foes, distorting his face to scare them, and saying aggravating things to them all the time. When he had finished another of the troupes went through the sword exercise with two swords, and after that a third exhibited his ability to stick a long trident, within an eighth of an inch of the occupants of the front seats. He was unsuccessful in his attempt at killing a married man, so the next item—"The widow's lament," by the musicians, fell rather flat. After five minutes' execution, one of the best things of the evening was given a chance. A Chinese conjurer performed several simple tricks of sleight of hand, and one or two really good ones, such as tearing a fan apart and reopening it unbroken. He was encored, and complacently threw in an extra trick in return. "The flying weight" was the next. It was a small piece of metal at the end of a long cord, and the manipulator was a terror. After ineffectually trying to break his shinbone with the weight he hurled it around him in the "bolae" style and tried to kill some of the musicians. He was the least crowded man in the theatre for a few minutes. A shrewd-looking old fellow, a professional "wizard," next volunteered to tell fortunes. He had several candidates for the chair. They asked him any questions they wanted, and he duly replied. And he could hit the mark, too, surprisingly; when he could not he smiled cunningly and gave an evasive reply. The efforts of the three humorists, wizard, interpreter, and subject, took immensely and roars of laughter swept the theatre. After feats of balancing, the concluding item on the programme was reached. A troupe of tumblers—very different from our acrobats—lumbered heavily through a round of somersaults, &c. Colonel Storer, the Chairman, then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Stewart Lockhart, Mr. Stewart Lockhart proposed a vote of thanks to Colonel Storer, and everyone trooped out into the cool air.

"The Rise and Fall of a Shanghai Speculator" is the title of a pamphlet advertised by Messrs. Lane, Crawford & Co. of that city.

Lord Coventry, the Master of the Backbones, a. y. s. London exchange, was overpowered this year with applications for tickets for the Royal Enclosure at Ascot. It is said that he received nearly 5000 applications, while there is not room for more than 1000 persons in the Enclosure. Lord Coventry has always been generous giving tickets, but this year he was obliged to close the list many days before the races, as he had already issued as many as the Enclosure would hold. Many persons who applied but were therefore disappointed; and the ladies who were in this case, although they had bought new frocks, would not go to Ascot at all, as they "do not like to admit by going to the Grand Stand that they have not got tickets for the Enclosure."

THE THEATRE ROYAL.
Mr. Pemberton W. Willard and Mr. John F. Sheridan are both well-acquainted with Hongkong, and the popular predilections. Now, why do these two gentlemen insist on showing theatre-goers all the samples they carry when they have found what suited them? Their Company is as good as one as ever came out to the Far East; the wardrobes, stage accessories, &c., are elaborate and costly, and yet here, in a place which is currently supposed to be aching for amusement, we find them on their sixth performance playing to a thin dissatisfied house, as they did last night. The reason is that too much is attempted. Five pieces—opera, comedy, burlesque, and a hash of all in one—have been produced in six nights, and the result is that two out of the number have been almost failures. "The Tramp," which was the piece chosen for last night, was on the verge of being a failure. It starts in a dreary, uncomprehensible way; a tough-looking tramp, a book agent and a donkey get mixed up with the plot of "The Member for Slocum" in the first act, and in the second "Faust" boiled down to twenty minutes, is dragged in by the heels, and the audience is asked to keep the run of the performance without dislocating its intellect or outraging its self-respect. Either piece is fairly good, alone—say with "Faust" as the *Levee de Reine* and the comedy afterwards. But they do not find never will mix. We were glad to note, however, that the failure of the comedy was due simply to its lack of merit, and not to any want of ability on the part of a single member of the Company. All tried their best to arouse some interest in the unresponsive audience. But what could be done when a banjo solo—a clever one, certainly—was the only item enclosed, when the bones and a minstrel "walk round" are mingled with dances, fairy diversions, and "Faust" III give us the "Arabian Nights" again. Thespians! You were an unqualified success in that Give us "Faust" anything but a "Little Joe Sheppard" or "The Tramp," else either are marred at present. It is not fair to the Company that they should be expected to be letter-perfect in a dozen dissimilar parts, at the cost of excessive study and fatiguing rehearsals. More than one looked completely worn-out last night. Little, lively Miss Grace Whiteford danced and sung with the charming innocence which seems so natural to her; the rest of the ladies, as *Captain Kidd's* daughters, looked pretty, and, in "The Sphinx," even piquant. Mr. Willard, as "Old Hess," made up and sneaked about very trimly, and he plays a good accompaniment, too, on the bones. Sheridan, as the above-mentioned book agent, was very funny; "The Tramp" owed a lot to him. Mr. Fisher sang as well as he always does, Mr. Imano nearly as well, and Mr. Stuch was a good "Old Man." But there—we can't praise comedians of an undisciplined good standard, for appearing in such business.

CORRESPONDENCE.
(We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.)

THE PERFORMANCES AT THE CITY HALL.
To the Editor of the "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,"
SIR,—I should like to inform "An Old Gaiety Hand" that Miss Maud Hare played Miss Marion Hood's part, and not Miss Wadman's. After seeing Little Jack Sheppard 15 times, your correspondent might surely have remembered the distribution of parts. He says the snow and slide scene was introduced; as a matter of fact, this, the funniest part of the burlesque, was omitted. I suggested to Mr. Stuch that he should imitate Mr. Fred Leslie in this, also in the finger-cracking and letter-reading, but the management evidently did not approve of imitating the Prince of Burlesque artists. I agree with you, Sir, as to the hypercriticism that is so prevalent in Hongkong, and think that with a few more rehearsals Messrs. Willard and Sheridan's Company could have given a good representation of the Gaiety burlesque, as they were in possession of a book of the works alluded to by your correspondent. "An Old Gaiety Hand" should remember that "Little Jack Sheppard" at the Gaiety had six weeks' rehearsal, while here it had only two days.
Thanking you for the publication of these lines,
I remain, Sir,
Yours truly,
JONATHAN OSCAR WILDE.
Hongkong, 26th July, 1888.

THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors to the ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders, to be held at the office of the Company, on Friday, the 3rd August, 1888, at noon:—
The Directors beg to submit to the shareholders the usual Statement of Accounts for the half-year ending 30th June last.
After paying running expenses, salaries, premia of insurance, repairs, and all other outgoings, there remains, including \$3,000 of dividend forward from last account, the sum of \$79,968 08 at credit of profit and loss account. From this the directors recommend that \$16,000, 7 p.c. on the capital, be paid as dividend for the half-year, and that \$15,000 be placed at credit of depreciation and insurance fund, (which will then stand at \$115,000) leaving a balance of \$3,968 08 to be carried forward to new account.
The gross receipts on the Canton lines have been somewhat in excess of those for the corresponding six months of last year. Owing to the resumption of the junk traffic, the returns from the Macao line show a considerable falling off, but the diminished cost of the steamers, compared with the first half of 1887, is mainly due to the fact that the Hongkong-Canton service

